

Vol III Issue II August 2013

Impact Factor : 1. 2018

ISSN No :2231-5063

Monthly Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Golden Research Thoughts

Chief Editor
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

Publisher
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

IMPACT FACTOR : 1. 2018

Welcome to ISRJ

RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2230-7850

Indian Streams Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

International Advisory Board

Flávio de São Pedro Filho Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Mohammad Hailat Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Carolina Aiken, Aiken SC 29801	Hasan Baktir English Language and Literature Department, Kayseri
Kamani Perera Regional Centre For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Abdullah Sabbagh Engineering Studies, Sydney	Ghayoor Abbas Chotana Department of Chemistry, Lahore University of Management Sciences [PK]
Janaki Sinnasamy Librarian, University of Malaya [Malaysia]	Catalina Neculai University of Coventry, UK	Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Horia Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania
Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania	Ilie Pinteau, Spiru Haret University, Romania
Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Xiaohua Yang PhD, USA
Titus Pop	George - Calin SERITAN Postdoctoral Researcher	Nawab Ali Khan College of Business Administration

Editorial Board

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade ASP College Devrukh,Ratnagiri,MS India	Iresh Swami Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur	Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur
R. R. Patil Head Geology Department Solapur University, Solapur	N.S. Dhaygude Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur	R. R. Yaliker Director Managment Institute, Solapur
Rama Bhosale Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education, Panvel	Narendra Kadu Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune	Umesh Rajderkar Head Humanities & Social Science YCMOU, Nashik
Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur	K. M. Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	S. R. Pandya Head Education Dept. Mumbai University, Mumbai
Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain	Alka Darshan Shrivastava Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar
Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Indapur, Pune	G. P. Patankar S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka	Rahul Shriram Sudke Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary, Play India Play (Trust),Meerut	Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director,Hyderabad AP India.	S.KANNAN Ph.D , Annamalai University,TN
	S.Parvathi Devi Ph.D.-University of Allahabad	Satish Kumar Kalhotra
	Sonal Singh	

**Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.isrj.net**

THE ROLE OF PRESSURE GROUPS IN DEMOCRACY

Sandeep Gulab Singh And S. A. Palekar

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga
Professor, Department of Political Science, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga

Abstract: A pressure group is an association of people having common interests who try to achieve that object by influencing the government. H. Zeigler defines pressure group as “an organized aggregate which seems to influence the context of governmental decision without attempting to its members informal governmental capacities”. Pressure groups are a part of the political process and they attempt to reinforce or change the direction of government policy, but they do not wish, as pressure groups, to become the government.

Keyword: Pressure Groups , Democracy , organized aggregate , political process .

INTRODUCTION:

They range from powerful employer organizations and trade unions operating at the national level to small and relatively weak local civic groups trying to improve local amenities. According to Henry A. Twiner, “By definition, pressure groups are non-partisan organizations which attempt to influence some phase of public policy. They do not themselves draft party programmes or nominate candidates for public office. Pressure associations do, however, appear before the resolutions committees of the political parties to urge the endorsement of their programme as planks in the party's platform. They often attempt to secure the endorsement of both major parties and thus remove their programme from the arena of partisan controversy. Many groups are also active in the nomination and election of party members to public offices.” V. O. Key has defined pressure groups as “private associations formed to influence public policy”.

Sometimes in place of the term pressure groups, the term interest group is used but they mean the same thing. Prof. MacIver writes, “When a number of men united for the defence, maintenance or enhancement of any more or less enduring position or advantage which they possess alike in common, the term 'interest' is applied both to the group so united as to the cause which unites them. In the sense, the term is most frequently used in the plural, implying either that various similar groups or advantages combine to form a coherent complex, as in the term vested interests or that the uniting interest is maintained against an opposing one, as in the expressions conflict of interests or balance of interests. Interests so understood usually have an economic political character. “According to Almond and Powell, “By interest group we mean a group of individuals, who are linked by particular bonds of concern or advantage and who have some awareness of these bonds. The structure of interest group may be organized to include continuing role performance by all members of the group or it may reflect only occasional and intermittent awareness of the group interests on the part

of individuals”.

Pressure groups do not influence the electorate on the basis of certain programmes. They are concerned only with some special interests. They are neither political organizations nor they put up candidates for election. They simply influence the policies of the government to achieve some special purpose. A special interest is the root of the formation of a pressure group. There can be no group unless there is special interest which forces the individuals to resort to political means in order to improve or define their positions, one against another. Pressure groups play the role of hide and seek in politics. They are afraid of coming into politics to play their part openly and try to hide their political character by the logic of their being non-political entities. Generally, no distinction is made between interest groups and pressure groups. However, there is some distinction between the two. An interest group is an association of people having a mutual concern. They become a pressure group as they seek government aid in accomplishing what is advantageous to them. An interest group is a formal organization of people who share one or more common aim and when they start influencing the formation and administration of public policy by government, they become pressure groups.

ROLE OF PRESSURE GROUPS:

In a modern political system, pressure groups occupy an important place and they exist in almost all democratic countries. No wonder, they have been called “the living public behind the parties”. There was a time when pressure groups were considered immoral and were hated but that is not the position today. Now they are considered not only essential for democracy but are also regarded as the protectors of individual interests. Influence on legislation is increasing day by day and hence pressure groups are described as “legislature behind legislature”. Dr. Finer describes them as “The Anonymous Empire”.

The impact of pressure groups on policy

formulation is very great. Ranney writes, "The many formal agencies of the government are more than mere collections of robots whose activities are entirely controlled by such extra governmental forces as pressure groups and parties. The point to remember, however, is that pressure groups have a significant impact upon public policy in every modern democratic system". The importance of pressure groups has increased to such an extent that they have become king makers in modern democratic republican societies. They help in forming a link between the people and the government of which administrators and legislators can make use in securing information on facts and attitudes. For example, any democratic government would like to consult farmers' association before formulating a new programme regarding farming. A free society welcomes groups because they represent the diverse and conflicting interests found among its citizens.

Many groups can act as buffers against the growth of the power of the central government and serve as agencies by which public sentiment is affected. These organizations can be business, professional, racial, religious, fraternal or civic in character. An effective advocacy of both public and private points of view, particularly controversial ones, is enhanced by pressure groups.

FACTORS HELPING SUCCESS OF PRESSURE GROUPS:

There are many factors which help the success of pressure groups. The size of a pressure group is one factor which help it to obtain what it wants. The reason is that groups with many members are likely to be more successful than those with few members because the former represent many voters and the latter few voters. Another cause of success of a pressure group is its cohesion. Both in politics and in war, those who work unitedly and closely are more powerful than those who are loosely untied or not united at all. Another secret of success is the leadership of a pressure group. Leadership is a prime factor. A good leader has to perform both internal and external functions for his group. The organization, tactics and chances for success of any pressure group are affected by the political and governmental system in which it operates.

DRAWBACKS:

However, the influence of pressure groups and lobbies is not all for the good. Some of them over reach themselves and indulge in unwholesome and immoral activities. They bribe legislators. They give sumptuous free meals without number and great quantities of assorted intoxicating liquors to legislators. They procure for their entertainment lascivious women who are on the pay roll of the lobbyists. The unwholesome and vulgar tactics of pressure groups forced the American Government to pass the Federal Regulations of Lobbying Act, 1956 which requires individuals and groups to send quarterly reports of their activities, to mention the particular bills in connection with which they worked, to give a list of publications, to give names of persons who contributed 500 dollars or more and to present the expenditure including in it the names of persons who received ten dollars or more.

On the whole, it may be stated that pressure groups act as a powerful check upon the arbitrary exercise of power and as they themselves are prone to abuse their power, it is essential that various interest groups be allowed to act as a check upon one another in order to establish and sustain the system of checks and balances. Verney writes, "The use of the term pressure groups suggests that outside interests are obtaining special favours at the expenses of the public, but it is also true that groups help to prevent Governments from imposing unfair burdens on the unorganized masses. Moreover, where party programmes tend of necessity to be general, group policies and proposals can be usefully specified." Ranney observes, "The right of citizens to organize and advance their ideals and interests by peaceful methods of discussion and negotiation is an essential principle of democracy. It is the basic justification not only for permitting the existence of pressure groups but for tolerating political parties as well. In any notion in which this right is guaranteed, pressure groups like political parties will continue to be organized and to play a significant role in the policy making process of democracy."

REFERENCES:

- i. Ball, A. R., *Modern Politics and Government*, London, 1971.
- ii. Bone, H. A., *American Politics and the Party System*, 1955.
- iii. Chandrasekharan, C. V., *Political Parties*.
- iv. Eckstein, Harry, *Pressure Group Politics*, Stanford, 1960.
- v. Finer, H., *Theory and Practice of Modern Government*.
- vi. Friderich, Carl, J., *Constitutional Government and Democracy*, Oxford, 1966.
- vii. Holtzman, Abraham, *Interest Groups and Lobbying*, London, 1966.
- viii. Key, V. O., *Politics, Parties and Pressure Groups*, 1959.
- ix. Ray, P. O., *Introduction to Political Parties and Practical Politics*.

Publish Research Article International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished research paper.Summary of Research Project,Theses,Books and Books Review of publication,you will be pleased to know that our journals are

Associated and Indexed,India

- * International Scientific Journal Consortium Scientific
- * OPEN J-GATE

Associated and Indexed,USA

- EBSCO
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Databse
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database

Golden Research Thoughts
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005,Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
Website : www.isrj.net